

RIGHTS CRUSADER

*Beaten by Negroes,
He's Still 'Concerned'*

By MAURICE HOBBS
Minneapolis Star Staff Writer

Another man was down and being kicked by a group of Negro youths in Powderhorn Park when Gary R. Schoener jumped in and yelled, "Stop!"

They stopped, long enough for the other man to scramble away. Then they turned on Schoener and beat and kicked him.

By the time they quit, Schoener had been beaten badly enough so that he may lose the sight in one eye.

Fourteen people were treated at General Hospital that night, last Thursday. Only Schoener and a 14-year-old youth from Farmington were injured seriously enough to require hospital stays. Police arrested 17 persons in connection with the incidents, which included vandalism in South Minneapolis.

Both Eyes Covered

Monday, four days after the incident, Schoener lay in a General Hospital bed, white cotton patches taped over both eyes.

"It doesn't change my concern for Negroes at all," he

said. Schoener, 23, who is working for a Ph.D. in psychology at the University of Minnesota, has worked in Virginia in connection with the Mississippi voter registration drive and was involved in civil rights work in Harlem.

But he did have a couple of messages.

One was that "the Negro community has to accept re-

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Minneapolis Star Photo
by Charles Bjorgen
GARY SCHOENER
In General Hospital

sponsibility" for incidents like those last week.

The other is that police "need better training to handle this sort of thing."

The responsibility of the Negro community is to watch to see "that these things don't happen," said Schoener.

The incidents last Thursday offered a "clear-cut example of not assuming that responsibility" he said.

He denied the claim of Mayor Arthur Naftalin, who said Friday that the incidents after the Powderhorn fireworks display and at the Wallace-for-president rally in Convention Hall Wednesday "are not to be regarded as racial incidents."

Claim Denied

"It was clearly a racial thing," said Schoener. "These kids were screaming 'Kill, kill, kill!'"

"The casualty lists printed in the paper are all whites and those arrested are all Negroes."

Schoener said he doesn't believe there were enough police at the park, and although "some of those police were really on the ball," he thinks they need more training to handle such a situation.

One police officer, he said, could have stopped the beating of the man he tried to help by shining a flashlight at the youths, and would probably not have been hurt.

He said there was apparently an "appalling" lack of communication if the police were not aware that there might be trouble at the park.

One thing needed, he said, is more Negro policemen.